

REMARKS

In this amendment, claims 1, 18, 44, and 46 have been amended to more clearly define the flange. Claim 12 has been amended to more clearly state a structure as opposed to a product by process configuration. Claims 13-17 and 29-39 were previously canceled. Therefore, claims 1-12, 18-28, and 40-47 remain for consideration in the application. Applicant believes that the amendment places the case facially in condition for allowance, and requests withdrawal of the rejections and the issuance of a notice of allowance.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 44-47 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being clearly anticipated by Konefal et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,039,195). Applicant traverses this rejection, and submits that the claims as amended define over the cited art. Nowhere in the cited art is a flange fully surrounding the circumference of the cap, as is recited in the claims.

Claims 1-3, 18, 40-47 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Ryder (U.S. Patent No. 4,579,823). Applicant traverses this rejection, and submits that the claims as amended define over the cited art. Nowhere in the cited art is a flange fully surrounding the circumference of the cap, as is recited in the claims.

Claims 1, 4-5, 18 and 40-47 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Mar (U.S. Patent No. 4,512,484). Applicant traverses this rejection, and submits that the claims as amended define over the cited art. Nowhere in the cited art is a flange fully surrounding the circumference of the cap, as is recited in the claims.

Claims 1, 18, 40, 42 and 44-47 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Floyd (U.S. Patent No. 4,904,450). Applicant traverses this rejection, and submits that the claims as amended define over the cited art. Nowhere in the cited art is a flange fully surrounding the circumference of the cap, as is recited in the claims.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 44-47 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Konefal et al. in view of Long, Jr. (U.S. Patent 5,673,222). Applicant traverses this rejection, because as the Office Action has pointed out (Page 2, paragraph 1), “[c]laims 44-47 make no reference to the cap and flange having disjoined threads. As such applicant’s arguments are not commensurate in scope with that of the claims.” Applicant agrees, and therefore submits that this rejection, which brings Long Jr. into the equation, is also not commensurate with the scope of the claims, and should therefore be withdrawn.

Claim 19 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ryder or Mar. Claim 19 depends from and further defines patentably distinct claim 18, and is also believed allowable.

Claim 12 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mar. Claim 12 depends from and further defines patentably distinct claim 1, and is also believed allowable.

Claims 12 and 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Floyd. Claims 12 and 19, as has already been stated, depend from and further define one of patentably distinct claims 1 or 18, and are also believed allowable.


Claims 6-9 and 19-22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mar, as applied to claims 4, 18 and 44 above, further in view of Long, Jr. Claims 6-9 and 19-22 depend from and further define one of patentably distinct claims 1 or 18, and are also believed allowable.

CONCLUSION

If the Examiner has any questions or concerns regarding this application, please contact the undersigned at (612) 312-2203.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 29 Oct. 2004



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